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## Preface for the Special Issue

The international conference *Foundations of Software Science and Computation Structures (FOSSACS)* 2003, took place in Warsaw, Poland, April 7–9, 2003. FOSSACS is an event of the *Joint European Conferences on Theory and Practice of Software (ETAPS)*. The previous five FOSSACS conferences took place in Lisbon (1998), Amsterdam (1999), Berlin (2000), Genova (2001), and Grenoble (2002).

FOSSACS presents original papers on foundational research with a clear significance to software science. The Programme Committee invited papers on theories and methods to support the analysis, integration, synthesis, transformation, and verification of programs and software systems. We identified the following topics, in particular: algebraic models; automata and language theory; behavioural equivalences; categorical models; computation processes over discrete and continuous data; computation structures; logics of programs; modal, spatial, and temporal logics; models of concurrent, reactive, distributed, and mobile systems; process algebras and calculi; semantics of programming languages; software specification and refinement; transition systems; type systems and type theory.

The conference proceedings contains an invited paper plus 26 papers selected for publication by the Programme Committee; 96 were received, of which 2 were withdrawn. The members of the Programme Committee were W. Charatonik, A. Compagnoni, V. Danos, A. D. Gordon (Chair), R. Gorrieri, M. Kwiatkowska, E. Moggi, U. Nestmann, M. Nielsen, F. Nielson, F. Pottier, F. P. Presicce, D. Pavlovic, P. S. Thiagarajan, I. Walukiewicz, and P. Wolper. The proceedings itself appears as volume 2620 of *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, Springer, 2003.

This special issue of *Theoretical Computer Science* contains extended journal versions of 9 papers drawn from the conference proceedings. Each of the submissions received for this special issue has been reviewed to journal standard, by at least three reviewers. In the light of the reviews, each has been revised again by the authors to produce the final published version. All the reviewers recommended acceptance, in some cases subject to revisions, and all approved the final versions.

I thank all the authors for their work to create and revise these articles. I thank all the reviewers for their diligent efforts to assess and suggest improvements to the articles. I commend the outcome as an outstanding collection of theoretical computer science.

Andrew D. Gordon, Programme Chair FOSSACS 2003  
Microsoft Research, 7 J.J. Thomson Ave, Cambridge CB3 0FB, UK  
E-mail address: [adg@microsoft.com](mailto:adg@microsoft.com)